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FEB 02 2004

TECH CENTER 16312908

REMARKS

The Office has indicated that claims 23, 24 and 27 are allowable, and that claims 17, 18, 21, 22 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This amendment cancels claims 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 39. The rejections directed to those claims are thus rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests that such rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 17 and 21 have been amended to be in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Office. Thus, claims 17 and 21 are now allowable. Claims 18 and 40 depend from amended claim 17, and claim 22 depends from amended claim 21, and thus no longer depend from a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.



Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Kasten", written over a horizontal line.

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